Lennoaceae belong to a group that Hooker is working up. Solms Laubach's views seem to me very plausible

25, WILTON PLACE.
S.W.

June 30/74

My dear Gray

I have two letters of yours to acknowledge

First about Orobanche and Phelipaea I cannot give any opinion of my own till I come to work them up but what you say looks very plausible – such a character as a difference in the relative position of stigmatic [illegible] when coinciding with geography is of very much greater weight than any thing relating to bracts which I believe are seldom if ever of importance unless as in Compositae they are called to higher functions such as replacing floral envelopes – and we now begin to find that geography in aid of generic character (when cautiously used) is often of value and has been too much neglected.

Many thanks about Cheiranthus that sets me right in a matter I much doubted

I think the anthers give an excellent primary character in Apocyneae – in which I propose 3 tribes

Carisseae. Antherae a stigmate liberae loculis basi ultra partem polliniferam non productis Ovarium integrum

Plumerieae Antherae a stigmate liberae loculis basi ultra partem polliniferam non productis Ovarii carpella distincta v. rarius subconnata et solubilia

Echitideae Antherae medio stigmati adhaerentes loculis basi ultra partem polliniferam productis. Ovarii carpella distincta v rarius subconnata saltem in fructu maturo solubilia.

In the first two the corolla lobes are usually but not always sinistrorsum obtegentes in Echitideae usually but not always dextrorsum obtegentes In both the lobes are usually but not always twisted in the direction opposed to that in which they overlap.

In the first two the seeds are almost always without coma in Echitideae almost always with a coma the exceptions are Holarrhena with the anthers of Plumerieae and Malouetia with the anthers of Echitideae

The passage from Echitideae to Asclepiadeae Periploceae is but little more marked than that from Echitideae to Plumerieae

In a day or two I go on to Asclepiadeae

Yours ever sincerely

George Bentham

I shall be obliged to suppress Leavicera but still the thin strapshaped petals of C. virginica and the two Chinese species will make a section of them

I have finished Apocyneae except a few doubtful specimens I have still to work up you have of course but little to do with them in North America the Echites difformis Walt referred by A. DC. to Forsteronia has none of the characters of that genus except the slenderness of the follicle which is next to nothing, but seems to me to go very fairly into Secondatia. Haplophyton and Cycladenia stand as well marked monotypic genera the Mexican-Texan Macrosiphonia are true members of that genus (or subgenus) I am inclined to adopt most but not all of Muell. Arg's S. American genera which are well worked up - his new genera and species in V. Heurck's genus Pl. Novae are many of them bad

Apocynum appears to me to have the carpels of the ovary half immersed in the fleshy disk lining the short broad tube of the calyx and the ovary is thus partially superior and still more so in Ichnocarpus (including Aganosma Don and Spruigia Muell. Arg which is Aganosma affinis Don) and in Epigynum Wrights (Leptocarpia Muell. Arg.) Pray look at your Apocyna with this view

Parechites has an older name Trachelospermum Lemaire

Among Wright's Cuban plants Anechites Griseb is a well marked genus of which I should much like to see ripe fruits a far advanced follicle in our specimen shows the seed winged at each end (as it ought to be) and not comose as described on tradition

— Echites cinerea A. Rich from Cuba is Haplophyton cimicifugum

+ Echites circinalis Griseb. Fl. Brit. W. Ind. as to the St Vincent plant is Holarrhena antidysenterica from the Botanical Garden

— Rauwolfia? strempelioides Griseb. has follicles and forms a new genus (Strempeliopsis) allied in some respects to Amsonia

I have no observation to make on Amsonia